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MR. SPEAKER :—" The number is more than 22, and the motion is admitted. Regarding the time, it should be taken up at 4 o'clock. To-day we have got the half-hour debate on the tramway dispute. So, I wish to know . . ."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" Sir, the time can be fixed after consultations."

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" I have no objection to further consultations. But I suggest that it may be fixed on any day after we finish discussion on the Andhra State Bill. There is nothing else standing in the way. I shall not then raise any objection that the matter is belated."

MR. SPEAKER :—" As soon as the Bill is over, we shall take up this question."

IV.—MOTION UNDER RULE 24 OF THE MADRAS ASSEMBLY RULES FOR TRANSACTION OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS ON A NON-OFFICIAL DAY.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move—

'*That rule 24 of the Madras Assembly Rules be suspended and the House do resolve to transact Government business (that is, discussion on the Andhra State Bill) on Thursday, the 16th July 1953.*' "

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" Sir, I rise to oppose this motion for this very simple reason. It has been the practice of the Government to see that Members of this House are deprived of their right of having non-official days. In the last session the same thing happened. In the session previous to the last session, the same thing happened. This has been going on repeatedly for a long time. As a matter of fact, in the last session of the Assembly, you may remember, Sir, we had a long talk in your Chamber, and the Leader of the House at that time agreed that he would compensate for the loss of the non-official days in that session by providing additional non-official days in this session. But now at the very beginning we are deprived of the first non-official day. Members are deprived of any right whatsoever to discuss subjects on their own initiative. As far as this House is concerned, it is for the Government to bring in any subject which pleases them. As far as we in the Opposition are concerned, we are here to discuss questions which the Government choose to bring before the House and also those questions in which the Opposition and the public are interested, but in which the Government may not be interested for their own reasons and convenience. Therefore, I oppose this motion."

* THE HON. C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, I am afraid the hon. the Leader of the Opposition has been a little bit hasty in coming to conclusion. It is not the intention of the Government to deprive this House of the opportunity of discussing non-official 11-10 a.m.

motions. But certainly, the Andhra State Bill is an urgent matter and we have fixed a target date by which time we will have to finish that business. In these circumstances, we want to take up official business tomorrow. If the House is willing to take up non-official business after the conclusion of business connected with the Andhra State Bill, I will certainly provide not one day but two days if there is enough business to be transacted. That assurance I give. Therefore, it is not a question of depriving the House of the opportunity of discussing non-official motions. I am prepared to allot one or two days for it after the conclusion of the business connected with the Andhra State Bill, which is an urgent matter. I request the hon. the Leader of the Opposition to consider this point and accommodate us in this matter."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" I am glad that a specific assurance has come from the Leader of the House that immediately after the conclusion of the business connected with the Andhra State Bill, he is prepared to allot not one but two days for transacting non-official business."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Two days, if necessary."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" There are very urgent matters to be discussed. For example, we have to consider the food situation in the State. There are also a number of other questions about which the people are agitating and about which we on this side of the House are very much worried. Therefore, we should have two non-official days in the next week. On getting that specific assurance, I am not pressing my opposition to this motion."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The question is—

' That rule 24 of the Madras Assembly Rules be suspended and the House do resolve to transact Government business on Thursday, the 16th July 1953.' "

The motion was put and carried.

MR. SPEAKER :—" Hon. Members Sri V. Sri Krishna and Sri Nambiar have given notice of adjournment motions. I shall take them up tomorrow."

V.—MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR.

MR. SPEAKER :—" I have to announce to the House the following messages received from the Governor of Madras :—

(1) ' In pursuance of Article 207, clause (1), read with Article 199 (1), clause (1), sub-clause (a), of the Constitution of India, I, Sri Prakasa, Governor of Madras, hereby give my recommendation to the introduction in the Madras Legislative Assembly of the Madras Entertainments Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1953.

(2) ' In pursuance of Article 207, clause (1), read with Article 199, clause (1), sub-clause (a) of the Constitution of India, I, Sri Prakasa, Governor of Madras hereby give my recommendation to the introduction in the Madras Legislative Assembly of the Mettur Canal Irrigation Cess Bill, 1953.'

" Now, we shall take up the Andhra State Bill."